Natural Gas to import and sell LPG, Kerosene Oil etc. at maket determined prices under their own arrangements;

(b) whether under the LPG Order, 1993 and Kerosene Order, 1993 private parties desirous of entering this field are supposed to inform Government of their bonafides and capabilties to import, bottle and distribute LPG and Kerosene, before commencing their operations and submit monthly report afterwards;

(c) whether there have been complaints that most of thes companies are collecting crores of rupees as interest free security from customers; and

(d) whether Government would order a probe into such complaints and take appropriate action against the defaulting Companies?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) According to the MRTP Commission, the Director General of Investigation and Registration has started investigation against 109 parallel marketeers. The parallel marketers are not required to obtain any approval from the Ministry of Petroleum and Natural Gas to import and sell LPG, kerosene or LSHS under the Parallel Marketing System.

(b) Yes, Sir.

(c) There were reports and complaints that some of the parallel marketeers were collecting deposits for appointment of dealers/distributors and registration of LPG consumers.

(d) The State and UT Govts. have been requested to prohibit collection of such deposits by parrallel marketeers without marketing adequate arrangements for supply of these products. Besides, they have also been advised to verify the genuineness, antecedents and capabilities of persons/agencies intending to take up activities under the parallel marketing system and to take appropriate action against persons who have been found indulging in fradulent and unfair trade practices. Public have also been suitably advised and warned through press releases that they must find out the antecedents, genuineness and capabilities of concerned parallel marketeers before intering into any agreement with them.

Evaluation of bids by ONGC

4771. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of PETROLEUM and NATURAL GAS be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that many major ONGC projects are bogged down due to litigation proceedings initiated by companies which had submitted bids for various tenders;

(b) if so, whether it is a fact that most of the complaints pertain to arbitrary evaluation of bids; and

(c) whether the ONGC would make the tender evaluation process a more transparent exercise thereby avoiding such legal tussles and the resultant delays in its project implementation ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM AND NATURAL GAS (CAPT. SATISH SHARMA) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The tenders in ONGC Limited are evaluated based on set procedure announced in the tender documents and hence there cannot be arbitrary evaluation of bids. The evaluation procedure is made known to the bidders in the tender document itself.

कच्चे तेल तथा अन्य पेट्रोलियम पदार्थों की कीमतों में कमी किया जाना

4772. **श्री राम जेठमलानी:**

श्रीमती सुषमा स्वराज: क्या पेट्रोलियम और प्राकृतिक गैस मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या यह सच है कि कच्चे तेल की कीमतें पिछले दो वर्षों से अन्तर्राष्ट्रीय बाजार में लगातार कम हो रही है ;

(ख) यदि हां, तो वर्ष 1992-93 तथा 1993-94 के दौरान कच्चे तेल की वर्ष-वार औसत कीमत क्या थी, जिस पर कच्चे तेल की खरीद की गई थी;

(ग) क्या वर्ष 1994-95 के दौरान कीमतों में और कमी होने की संभावना है;